

process that brings together governing bodies and citizen groups. I am convinced an inclusive democracy is one of the most significant and lasting achievements of the Orange Revolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY TALLY HICKEY—MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCATE, NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sydney Tally Hickey, military family advocate and member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Family Association (NMFA)—in recognition of her distinguished service to her country. From 1983, when she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff, until her death on December 1, 2006, she taught an entire generation of NMFA members to be consummate advocates and better the lives of hundreds of thousands of active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired service members, their families, and survivors. She did this by being smart, detailed, and persistent—armed with the facts, an unblinking perseverance, and a luminous passion.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hickey personally. She was a military family member all her life as an Air Force daughter and Navy spouse. She was married to Capt. Dennis J. Hickey IV, who is retired from the U.S. Navy, and has her two daughters and a grandson.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff and served as the Vice President of the Department from 1987 to 1990. On January 1, 1990, she was selected to become the Association's first paid professional staff member and served as Director of Government Relations until her retirement in October 1999. Mrs. Hickey continued her work with the Government Relations Department as a volunteer consultant on health care issues. She also served on the NMFA's Board of Governors.

Over the years, military families everywhere benefited from Sydney's hard work and foresight. She was the driving force behind the set of transition benefits Congress put in place for service members and families during the drawdown following the first Gulf War. Recognizing that military families overseas deserved the same access to federal safety net programs as those living in the United States, Sydney and NMFA worked aggressively for several years to secure the legislation creating the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program overseas. Thanks to her work, military families stationed overseas also became eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Supplemental Security Income.

Frequently invited to provide testimony before Congressional Committees on issues facing military families, she also helped guide the development of many of today's family readiness programs. Thanks in part to her foresight in anticipating the needs of families and her skill in articulating these needs, Congress and the Department of Defense established many vital enhancements to the quality of life of military families.

Sydney Hickey helped to take the voice of the military family from a whisper to a giant

roar, forevermore to hold a significant place in any pertinent discussion. She brought stories of military families' everyday experiences to the policy makers and now military family members are routinely represented on Congressionally-mandated advisory panels and DoD working groups and councils that develop and oversee programs and benefits applicable to them. She was one of the pioneers who taught and encouraged family members to get involved in the representative process, by sitting on boards and councils and teaching them how to work with legislators. She helped military family members become their own best advocates.

Sydney's work brought her many awards and recognitions, including the 1992 National Citizenship Award from the Military Chaplains Association, the 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, the 1998 "Champion for Children" award from the Military Impacted Schools Association, and the 1999 Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

In that same year, NMFA established an award for exceptional service to uniformed service families, presented it to Mrs. Hickey, and named it in her honor. She also received the Military Coalition's Award of Merit and recognition by the Defense Commissary Agency for her work as a "legendary champion for the causes of military life."

Sydney Hickey's legacy is greater than a list of awards. Her legacy is seen every day in the dedication and accomplishments of the people she mentored over the years: NMFA volunteers and employees, military family members, leaders of military associations, and countless others. It is in the increased awareness of military families that Members of Congress, their staffs, DoD civilians, contractors, and others gained, thanks to their interactions with Mrs. Hickey. Military families who may never know the name of Sydney Tally Hickey have benefited from her body of work and have an enhanced quality of life due to her efforts. Today, we honor the memory of this tireless advocate, whose life was a tribute to the military families she served.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM ROWLAND

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Sam Rowland, who passed away recently, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Sam was devoted to God, his family, friends, and the Law, and he applied the principles of his faith to his career and his many civic and humanitarian affiliations.

Sam came from a family of educators. He graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas, attended Texas A&M University on a baseball scholarship, earned an accounting degree from Texas A&M in 1955, and graduated from SMU School of Law in 1960. Sam had a long and interesting business career. He began his corporate experience at Texas Instruments in Dallas and went on to form a publicly held company in the early days of microchips.

In 1972 Sam opened his own law firm in Houston. He loved the practice of law and was a member of the Texas Bar for 46 years. He was the senior partner of Rowland and Keim for 18 years, and in 1990 opened his own firm in Bryan/College Station, where he practiced until his death. At the same time, he taught a course at Texas A&M College of Business, where he shared his wealth of corporate experience and knowledge teaching young Aggies about starting their own business.

Sam was a member of the Corp of Cadets at Texas A&M, the 12th Man Foundation Executive Board, and Past President of the A&M Letterman's Association. He was a member of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Silver Haired Supper Club of Highland Park, and the Texas A&M Past Presidents Club of Houston and San Antonio. He was a member of the Houston Bar Association and the Brazos County Bar Association. Sam's faith was premiere in his life, and he was a member of the First Baptist Church in Bryan for 20 years and a member of the Little River Baptist Church in Jones Prairie.

Sam will be greatly missed by his family, his wife of 25 years, Betsy Kay Rowland of Bryan, daughters Melinda Rowland of Lafayette, LA, and Michele Hanlon of San Antonio, sons Stuart Rowland of Arlington and Sean Ryan and wife Glenda of Tyler, brother-in-law Bill Vorlop of Dallas, two nephews and their families, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Scott, his parents, Wordna Reed Rowland and Ray Davis Rowland, and his sister, Wanda Vorlop.

Sam Rowland was a friend, mentor, and role model for so many whose lives he touched and influenced, and his memory will be kept alive in the hearts of those who loved and admired him. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding American—Sam E. Rowland.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the staff members of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) who were named recipients of the Governor's Minnesota Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together (MnGREAT) Award for superior environmental achievement by Minnesota's public agencies. The award represents the highest level of environmental achievement within the State of Minnesota.

The five UMD staff members who received the environmental achievement award are Erik Larson (UMD Facilities Management, Engineer/Project Manager), Wade Lawrence (Director of Glensheen), and Peggy Dahlberg, Sheryl Lind, and Dan McClelland (UMD Facilities Management Grounds Department).

The award recognizes the low impact development and shoreline bank stabilization projects constructed at the Glensheen Historic Estate in Duluth. The goals of the projects were: to improve water quality of storm water from Glensheen's parking lots into Lake Superior; to stabilize the clay bank in order to reduce wave, rain, and surface flow erosion during large storms; and to provide a location